

JANUARY 12, 1808.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house
on Friday next.

A Bill,

To amend the act, entitled “an act to incorporate the inhabitants of
the city of Washington, in the district of Columbia.

1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives*
2 *of the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That the
3 council of the city of Washington shall, from and after the next ge-
4 neral election, consist of twenty, instead of eighteen members, to
5 be divided into two chambers as heretofore; the first chamber to
6 consist of eleven members, the second of nine; the second cham-
7 ber to be chosen from the whole number of counsellors by joint
8 ballot, as heretofore.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That each ward, within the
2 city of Washington, shall, from and after the next general election,
3 be entitled to a representation in the city council in proportion to
4 its qualified voters: and the common council shall, on some day

5 before the next general election, and once in every five years after-
 6 wards, fix, by ordinance, the number of representatives which each
 7 of the present wards, and such as may hereafter be formed, shall
 8 be entitled to elect to the city council, allowing to each ward a fair
 9 representation in proportion to its qualified voters. In case vacan-
 10 cies shall occur in the council, such vacancies shall be supplied by
 11 a new election within that particular ward in the representation of
 12 which such vacancies shall happen.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That no person shall in fu-
 2 ture be qualified to vote for members of the city council, unless, in
 3 addition to the qualifications at present prescribed by law, he shall
 4 have paid a tax assessed at least six months previous to the day of
 5 election.

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act, en-
 2 titled "an act to incorporate the inhabitants of the city of Wash-
 3 ington," as requires the members of the city council to be elected by
 4 general ticket, shall be and the same is hereby repealed. And the in-
 5 habitants of each ward qualified to vote shall, annually hereafter, as-
 6 semble at such place within their respective wards, as shall be pre-
 7 scribed by the judges of election, and elect by ballot, the number
 8 of representatives which may be allotted, by the ordinance of the
 9 city council, to that particular ward: and the representatives so
 10 elected shall, in addition to the qualifications prescribed by law, be
 11 residents within that particular ward for which they are chosen.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That when any tax hereafter
 2 laid on real property within the city of Washington, whether

3 the same shall be improved or not, shall remain unpaid six months,
 4 it shall be lawful for the person or persons appointed to collect such
 5 tax, to sell at public auction the lots on which such tax shall re-
 6 main unpaid, or so much thereof as shall be necessary to produce
 7 the amount of tax due on such lots.

1 *Sec. 6. And be it further enacted,* That where a lot, or part of a
 2 lot, sold for non-payment of taxes, shall belong to a resident of the
 3 city of Washington, or of the district of Columbia, thirty days pre-
 4 vious notice shall be given of such sale, in some public newspa-
 5 per printed in the city of Washington: and such resident may, at
 6 any time within six months after such sale, redeem his property,
 7 by paying to the person or persons appointed to collect such tax,
 8 the amount of tax due, with ten per centum interest thereon from
 9 the time of sale. And where the owner of a lot, or part of a lot,
 10 exposed to sale for non-payment of taxes, shall not be a resi-
 11 dent of the district of Columbia, four months previous notice of
 12 such sale shall be given, in some newspaper printed within the city
 13 of Washington, and such non-resident may, at any time within twelve
 14 months after such sale, redeem his property, by paying to the per-
 15 son or persons appointed to collect such tax, the amount of tax due,
 16 with ten per centum interest thereon from the day of such sale.

1 *Sec. 7. And be it further enacted,* That if a resident within the
 2 district of Columbia shall not, within six months, redeem, in the
 3 manner above mentioned, real property sold for non-payment of tax-
 4 es, or a non-resident of the district within twelve months, all their
 5 right, title and interest in and to the property sold, shall cease and

determine, and the conveyance of the persons appointed to sell such property shall give to the purchaser a right in fee simple.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act for incorporating the inhabitants of the city of Washington, as prohibits the city council from subjecting vacant or unimproved city lots, or parts thereof, from being sold for taxes, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That after providing for the support of the poor, and all expenses of a general nature in the city of Washington, the money raised by tax on real property, within each ward, shall be appropriated to improvements within the ward in which the same shall have been levied.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall in future suffer his or her slave to go at large, within the city of Washington, and hire him or herself out, it shall be lawful for any person to apprehend and carry such slave before a justice of the peace for the county of Washington; and if it shall appear to the justice, that such slave comes within the purview of this act, he shall order him or her to the jail of the county, there to be kept until the next court held for the county, when, if it shall be made appear to the court, that the slave so ordered to jail has been permitted to hire him or herself out, contrary to the meaning of this act, it shall be lawful for the court, and they are hereby required, to order the marshal or other officer of the county, to dispose of every such slave for ready money, one month's previous notice of such sale being given in some newspaper printed in the city of Washington:

15 twenty-five per centum on the amount of the sale of every slave
 16 so going at large or hiring out himself or herself, shall be applied by
 17 the court ordering such sale, towards lessening the county levy,
 18 and the residue shall be paid by the marshal or other officer, after
 19 deducting the jail fees and five per centum for his trouble, to the
 20 owner of such slave.

1 Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this act con-
 2 tained, shall be considered as authorizing the city council of Wash-
 3 ington to lay any tax on the property of the United States.

1 Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That the common council of
 2 the city of Washington, shall have power to erect work-houses and
 3 houses of correction, and to place therein at labour, for a period not
 4 exceeding three months at any one time, any vagrant, loose or dis-
 5 orderly person, who has no visible mode of obtaining a subsistence:
 6 And to make all laws necessary to prevent the introduction of the poor
 7 and vagrants of other places, and to provide for their removal without
 8 the limits of the city of Washington. And it shall be lawful for any
 9 person to apprehend and carry before a justice of the peace for the
 10 county of Washington, any vagrant, loose or disorderly person hav-
 11 ing no visible means of obtaining a subsistence; and if it shall appear
 12 to such justice, that the person so apprehended, comes within the
 13 purview of this act, such justice may, at his discretion, commit the
 14 person apprehended to the work-house, or provide for his or her
 15 removal without the limits of the county of Washington.